

## Urinary Bladder Cancer

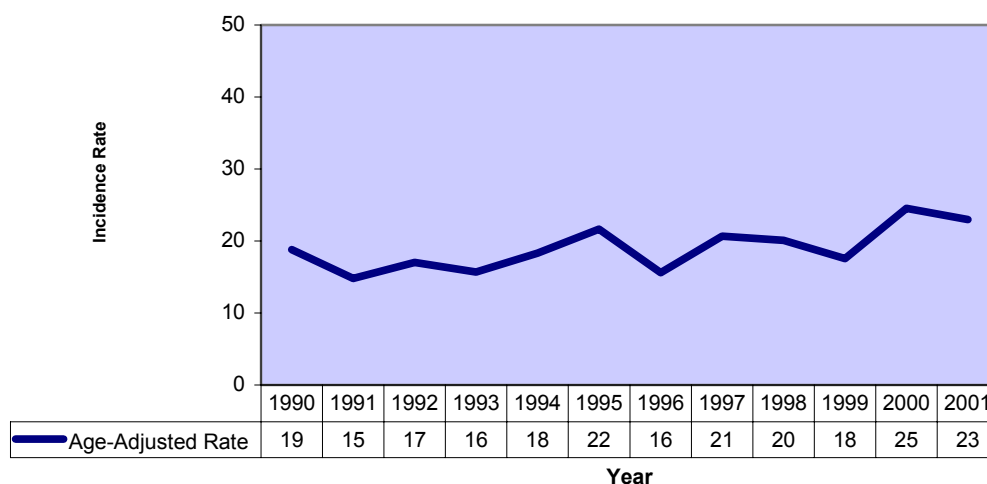
Cancer of the urinary bladder is the fifth most common cancer in the United States. Each year, approximately 38,000 men and 15,000 women are diagnosed with bladder cancer. This is the fourth most common type of cancer in men and the eighth most common in women. Like almost any malignancy, bladder cancer is a multifactorial disease with both an environmental and genetic component. The most important known risk factor for bladder cancer is cigarette smoking; cigarette smokers develop bladder cancer two to three times more often than nonsmokers (Silverman et al., in press). Risk increases with amount smoked (number of packs per day), with moderate to heavy smokers experiencing two to five times the risk of nonsmokers. Quitting smoking is associated with a 30% to 60% decrease in risk. Smoking is estimated to be responsible for about 48% of the bladder cancers among men and 32% among women in the United States.

### Urinary Bladder Cancer Incidence

Like the incidence rate of most cancers in Lancaster County, the bladder cancer incidence rate has not changed since 1990 (Figure 22). This trend was generally consistent with the trends of the State and the Nation (Figure 23).

**Figure 22: Urinary Bladder Cancer Incidence Rates**

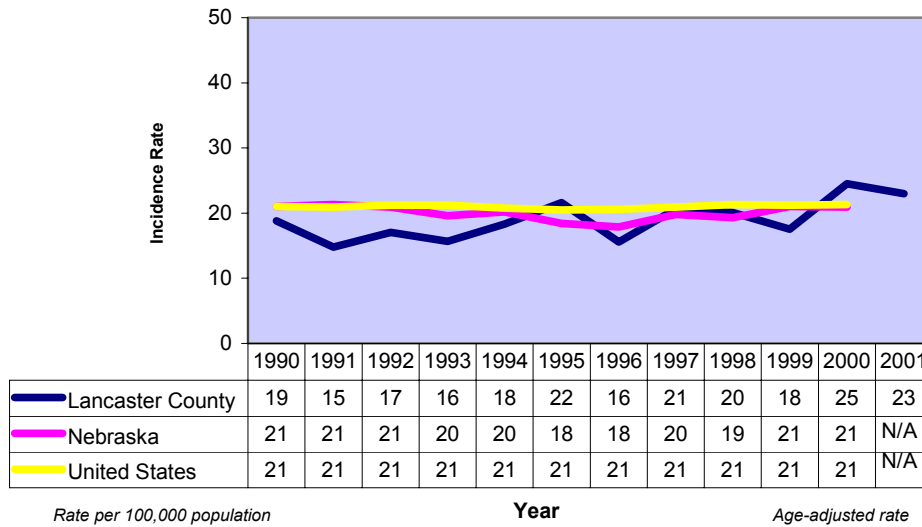
Lancaster County (1990-2001)



Rate per 100,000 population

Source: Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department

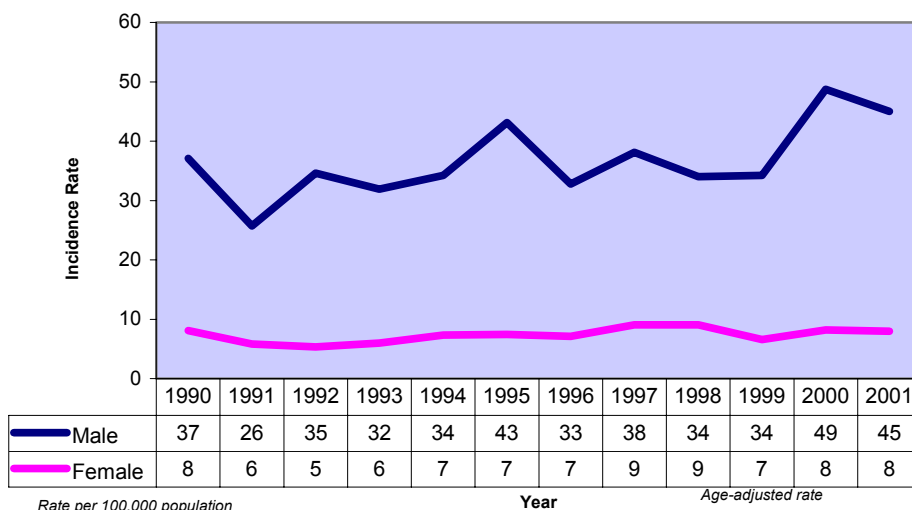
**Figure 23: Urinary Bladder Cancer Incidence**  
Lancaster County, Nebraska & US (1990-1999)



Source: Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department

Men on average had a 5 times higher bladder cancer incidence rate than women. The average cancer incidence for men in the last 12 years was approximately 36 per 100,000 men population compared to 7 for every 100,000 women (Figure 24).

**Figure 24: Urinary Bladder Cancer by Gender**  
Lancaster County (1990-2001)

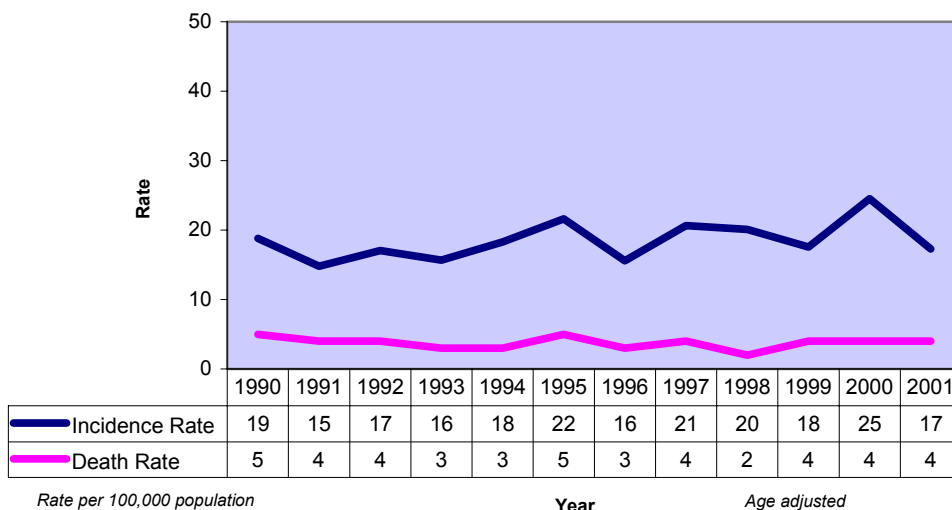


Source: Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department

## Bladder Cancer Death

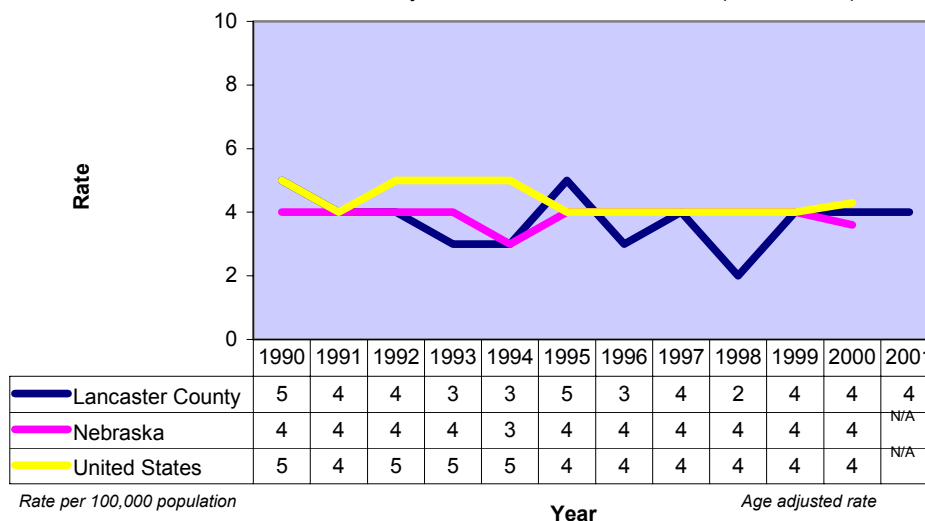
Figure 25 portrays the incidence and death rates for bladder cancer in Lancaster County. Similar to the incidence rate, death rate has remained stable since 1990. Comparative death rates among Lancaster County, the State and the Nation are shown in Figure 26. All three places had similar death rates due to bladder cancer over the past 12 years, averaging 3-4 deaths per year for every 100,000 population.

**Figure 25: Bladder Cancer Incidence & Death Rate**  
Lancaster County (1990-2001)



Source: Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department

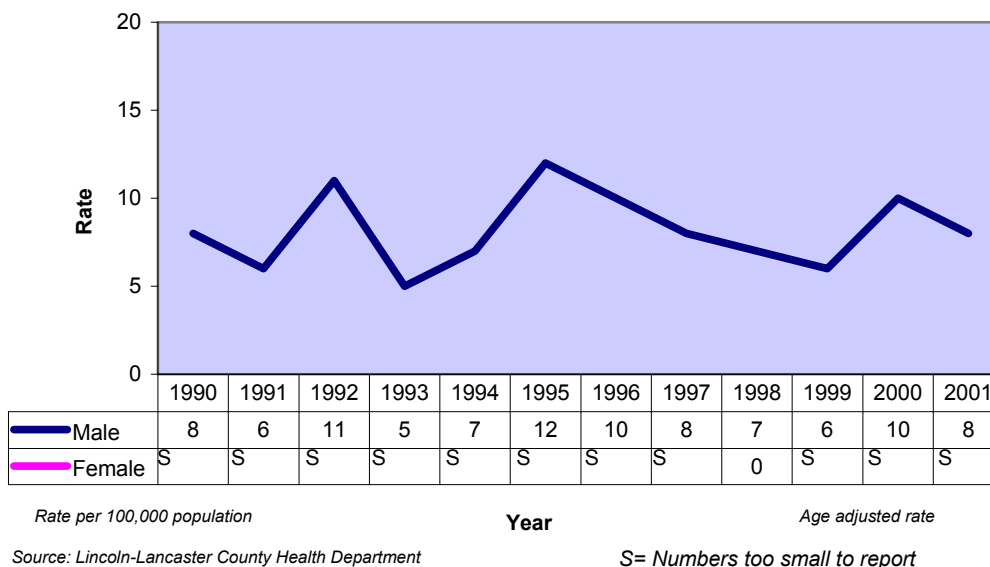
**Figure 26: Urinary Bladder Cancer Death Rate**  
Lancaster County, Nebraska & United States (1990-2001)



Source: Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department

Very high death rates due to bladder cancer were observed among men compared to women (Figure 27). The average death rate in a twelve-year period for men was 8 per 100,000 men, whereas for women it was 1 death per 100,000 women. This is probably due to the low incidence of the disease among women compared to men observed during the same time frame.

**Figure 27: Urinary Bladder Cancer Death Rate by Gender**  
Lancaster County (1990-2001)



## Public Health Implications:

As tobacco is the most important risk factor for urinary bladder cancer, public health strategies to decrease lung cancer will also decrease the cancer burden for urinary bladder cancer. Similarly, use of good work safety practices if involved with chemicals called aromatic amines will reduce work exposure. Studies have indicated that persons who drank at least 11 cups of fluid a day were half as likely to get bladder cancer as those who drank fewer than 6 cups a day. Continued efforts at surveillance, disease monitoring, and public awareness are essential public health functions.